MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MARCH 1981

Syria

Editorial on Jordan--According to Damascus radio, a TISHRIN editorial said that it is a "proven historical fact" that Jordan is an "artificial entity" created by British imperialism. The land on which it was established, the editorial continued, is the "land of Syria," and Jordan is a "natural part" of Syria. Because the Jordanian regime is a product of imperialism, TISHRIN said, it is "illegitimate, undemocratic and un-Arab."

Iraqi Delegation--QNA reported from Damascus that an Iraqi Oil Ministry delegation is currently visiting Syria on a mission to negotiate the resumption of pumping of Iraqi oil to the Baniyas refinery on the Syrian coast.

Lebanon

Ba'labakk Calm--Following several days of clashes between rival factions in Ba'labakk, Beirut radio reported that the city was calm after armored units of the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) took control of the city center. An ADF statement broadcast by Beirut radio said that each of the parties has been asked to keep open only one office in the city and that the ADF will use force to close unauthorized offices.

Callaghan Statement, Israeli Reaction--Gen William Callaghan, commander of UNIFIL, told journalists in Al-Qantarah that the UNIFIL command will continue its efforts to "impose the sovereignty" of the Lebanese authorities over southern Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the IDF spokesman expressed "amazement" at Callaghan's statement, stressing that the IDF will not abandon the Christian militia forces of Maj Sa'd Haddad.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in Copenhagen that Egypt "welcomes" the Soviet Union's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East provided such a conference does not "infringe" on the Camp David agreements and provided it produces positive results.

Kuwait

According to the newspaper AL-QABAS, a senior Kuwaiti official has denied reports that Kuwait plans to sell the Soviet Union large quantities of oil. Al-QABAS said the denial was prompted by a report in the London newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES that the Soviet Union plans to buy oil from Kuwait and resell it to Turkey.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Hammadi Interview--Citing an interview in the Saudi newspaper AR-RIYADH, Riyadh television reported that Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq has received no Soviet military support in its war with Iran.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported that after a 3-day battle, Iranian forces captured the highest peak overlooking Nowdesheh and now control the region. It also reported exchanges of artillery and mortar fire in the Marivan, Gilan-e Gharb, Susangerd and Karkheh Kur regions, while an Iraqi General Command Communique, carried by INA, said that Iraqi forces pounded Abadan with artillery and mortar fire. KUNA, citing the newspaper AL-ANBA', reported that two Iranian aircraft violated Kuwait's airspace while raiding southern Iraq on 25 March.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 059

27 March 1981

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Receives Ahmadzi Wazir Tribal Leaders C 1
Tribesmen Express Support C 2
Activities of Visiting PFLP Delegation Reported C 3
Meets With Keshtmand C 3
Meets Mahmud Barialay C 3
Officials Depart for Bulgarian Party Congress C 3
Correction to Rao's Meeting With Austria's Pahr C 3

BANGLADESH

Ziaur Rahman Hosts Luncheon in Honor of 'Arafat D 1
Rahman, Toure, 'Arafat, Chatti Meet 26 Mar D 1
Ziaur Rahman Addresses Nation on Independence Day D 1

PAKISTAN

Lord Carrington Arrives in Islamabad on Visit F 1
Haq on Relations With U.S., Internal Situation F 1
Spokesman Denies Secret Aid Agreement With U.S. F 1
Government Corrects Clause of Constitution Order F 2
Karachi Bar Association Supports Judges' Actions F 2

IRAN

Khamene'i: Peace With Saddam 'Almost Impossible' I 1
Bani-Sadr Attends Khuzestan Meeting on War I 1
Rafsanjani Visits War Wounded, Disabled 26 Mar I 2
Defense Council Publicity Director in New Delhi I 2
Press Conference I 2
Talks With Indian Minister I 2
Gharazi in Tokyo; Interviewed on Domestic Issues I 2
Mujahidin Blow Up Railroad Bridge in Iraq I 3
Ad-Da'wah Commandos Blow Up Basra TV Station I 4
Joint Staff Communique 447 Reports on Fighting I 4
Peak Overlooking Nowdesheh Cleared of Enemy I 5
Fighting Continues on Western Battlefronts I 5
NVOI on Reagan Administration's Views on Terrorism I 5

KARMAL RECEIVES AHMADZI WAZIR TRIBAL LEADERS

LD262224 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister, received elders and representatives of the Ahmadzi Wazir tribe at 1600 today at the Revolution Council headquarters at Gol Khanah Palace, speaking with them in an atmosphere of sincerity and friendship.

When Babrak Karmal entered the hall, he was greeted with the audience's applause and lofty fervor. Then some of the Ahmadzi Wazir elders presented Babrak Karmal with bouquets. A few verses from the holy Koran were then read by Qari Mohammad Omar and the DRA national anthem was played.

At the outset of this important talk, the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister welcomed the Ahmadzi Wazir to the Revolution Council headquarters and expressed his satisfaction at meeting them.

In addressing the audience, Babrak Karmal said: Let the enemies of the people of Afghanistan say what they want. They are anti-Islam and antihuman and are shamelessly expounding that in Afghanistan, God forbid, the Islamic region is held in contempt and is not respected. We have the holy Koran; only a moment ago you heard verses from it. It is an obvious fact that the people of Afghanistan are real followers of Islam. You then heard the anthem. Every country and tribe has its own anthem, which is an indication of their freedom and independence. You also notice that there is a flag here. This is also a symbol, indicating that Afghanistan is proud, independent and free.

Babrak Karmal went on to say, the history of you Pashtun brothers from Wazirestan is very proud. Your history of heroism and struggle shows that you have always defended your freedom and territorial integrity with valor and manliness. As a sincere and loyal servant of this land, I am proud to meet with you at the seat of government and to speak with you in an atmosphere of complete sincerity. The government, the state and I are fully aware of the suffering and oppression that you have endured, courageous and valiant brothers. We know you have no land, no water, no factories, hospitals and schools. Nor do you have proper clothing or houses. One must therefore ask why this suffering and oppression has been inflicted upon you. The answer is clear. It was British colonialism, international and American imperialism and the antipeople governments who intentionally spread discord among the Pashtun brothers. Thus, the toiling tribes of our country were unable to unite and build a progressive and developed Afghanistan and this perpetuated the miserable living. Now these times are over and the success of the Sawr Revolution has driven the servants and mercenaries of imperialism from Afghanistan. Even now, these infamous colonialists want to interfere in our internal affairs, via Pakistan, and are disturbing the peace and tranquillity.

Babrak Karmal added: The patriotic mission of you noble and courageous people is very important at this sensitive and historic moment: to defend every inch of your soil, as did your forefathers, with your blood. The DRA Government is your people's government and has promised Almighty God and the noble and toiling people of Afghanistan that it will render sincere service for the blossoming of the country and the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan and will remain a true servant in preserving the territorial integrity, freedom and independence of the beloved country. The goals of our government and party are completely clear and well defined. The path that we have chosen is the direct path. This is the path for which the approval of Almighty God is assured, for it is in accordance with the instructions of the holy Koran. We believe in the traditions of our forefathers. Not only do we respect them but, with the means at our disposal, we are trying to help their development. On our behalf, tell all of the different tribes of the tribal land that the tribal traditions, assemblies and other customs are completely free. The government has no right to interfere in our chosen traditions and customs.

At the end, some of the elders thanked Babrak Karmal and said: Your valuable advice will always remain in our memory; we promise that to our dying day we will strive to protect our sacred soil from all colonialists and from those who have their own interest at heart. They also assured Babrak Karmal of their support for the gains of the new phase of the Sawr Revolution.

At the end of the meeting, a turban, as a token traditional gift, was presented by one of the elders of Ahmadzi Wazir to Babrak Karmal, who accepted it with thanks.

Tribesmen Express Support

LD271026 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Declaration by the Ahmadzi Wazir tribe issued on 26 March after a meeting of the tribe's elders and representatives with DRA Prime Minister Babrak Karmal at the Gol Khanah in Kabul]

[Text] On 26 March, all of the members of the tribal assembly of the Ahmadzi Wazir tribe met with Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA; at the end of the meeting, we unanimously approved the following declaration:

In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful.

1. The enemies of the Afghan revolution told us in their propaganda that Islam is in danger in Afghanistan, that no one can worship and that all of the mosques have been demolished. However, we have seen for ourselves that not one mosque has been demolished and that no one is being told not to pray. Everyone is going to the mosques and praying to God Almighty. Therefore, we know that the liars are the wicked ones.

2. The people of Waziristan know Babrak Karmal very well. He is a patriotic, national and revolutionary person.

3. It has been proven to all members of the tribal assembly that the limited contingents of the Soviet Union--the great northern neighbor of Afghanistan--have merely been invited by the legal Government of Afghanistan to defend against the external aggression directed at the Sawr Revolution. Whenever the external aggression against the Sawr Revolution ceases completely and national security can be fully strengthened, the limited contingents of the Soviet Union will return to their great country.

4. We members of the tribal assembly were assured that Afghanistan would forever be a free, independent and Muslim country and that it would follow a policy of positive nonalignment.

5. The Ahmadzi Wazir tribe promised its favored leader, Babrak Karmal, that it will not allow any enemy to act against the Sawr Revolution, particularly during its second stage of development. We will not allow any arms or material that can be used against the revolution to cross our tribal land into Afghanistan. We will drive all enemies of the revolution from our region and we will no longer allow them to continue their wicked deeds.

May God make success ours.

ACTIVITIES OF VISITING PFLP DELEGATION REPORTED

Meets With Keshtmand

LD260658 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 25 Mar (BAKHTAR)--Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of PDPA CC Politburo, deputy president of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister of DRA received today a high ranking party delegation of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by Teesar Qiba, member of the Politburo and in charge of the International Relations Commission of PFLP.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

Meets Mahmud Barialay

GF251209 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Mahmud Barialay, member of the Central Committee and chief of the International Relations Commission of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, met yesterday Teesar Qiba, member of the Politburo and chief of the International Relations Commission of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who has come to Kabul as the head of a party delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Matters of mutual interest were discussed at this cordial meeting.

OFFICIALS DEPART FOR BULGARIAN PARTY CONGRESS

LD252030 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member, PDPA Central Committee secretary and DRA Revolution Council Presidium member; and Mahmud Barialay, PDPA Central Committee member and member of the International Relations Commission of the PDPA Central Committee, left for Sofia today to attend the 12th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP], at the invitation of the BCP Central Committee.

CORRECTION TO RAO'S MEETING WITH AUSTRIA'S PAHR

The second item under the heading "Austrian Foreign Minister Continues Visit," subheaded "Banquet With Rao," published on page E 3 in the INDIA section of the 25 March South Asia DAILY REPORT, contains an incorrect sourceline. The correct sourceline should be:

BK240953 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 81

ZIAUR RAHMAN HOSTS LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF 'ARAFAT

BK270335 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has reiterated that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is possible only through restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians to have a state in their own homeland and withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the illegally occupied Arab lands. Speaking at a luncheon hosted in honor of visiting PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat at Banga Bhavan in Dacca today, the president expressed Bangladesh's complete solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom and inalienable national rights.

Speaking in reply, the PLO chief said the Palestinians are [words indistinct] their struggle against the aggressors. He said we are struggling together against the same enemies in facing these challenges against the Islamic world. Sooner or later, the flag of Islam will be raised on Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem.

RAHMAN, TOURE, 'ARAFAT, CHATTI MEET 26 MAR

BK261724 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman and visiting Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Organization of Islamic Conference's Habib Chatti met at Banga Bhavan this afternoon. The meeting, which lasted about an hour, discussed informally various matters relating to Islamic countries and also international issues of common concern to the Muslim world. Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq and his Guinea counterpart, Al Hadj Abdoulaya Toure, were also present at the meeting. Later, Professor Haq said the Islamic good-will mission on the Iran-Iraq war is likely to meet in Jidda on Sunday [29 March].

PRESIDENT RAHMAN ADDRESSES NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

BK261456 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1300 GMT 25 Mar 81

[President Ziaur Rahman's address to the nation over radio and TV on the eve of independence day--live or recorded]

[Summary] Dear countrymen: On the eve of the great independence day, let me first express my gratitude and respect to Almighty God. It was in 1971, 10 years ago, that the people of the country stood united against foreign rule and its exploitation and brought independence. We are truly indebted to our freedom fighters, whose greatest sacrifice helped us to achieve freedom. On this auspicious occasion, I take the opportunity on behalf of the people of the country to express our sincere gratitude to all freedom fighters.

The century-old colonialism and exploitation are responsible for the poverty and backwardness of our people. "Thus, independence is so important and meaningful to us. We have to achieve economic self-reliance and prosperity, simultaneously with political independence and sovereignty. This is necessary because we want to bring the fruits of independence to our people and to make their life meaningful. There is no doubt that it is a herculean task."

It is known to all that a few years following independence, our country had to pass through many difficulties and its economy reached a point of collapse. "What we need today is a strong economic foundation, based on self-reliance. To achieve this goal, we have to fully mobilize all of our natural and human resources. This requires a strong socio-economic and administrative structure, effective national planning, a better law and order situation, political stability and a disciplined social environment."

You all know how, following independence, an attempt was made to introduce a political, social and economic system that was not acceptable to the people. That system not only affected our progress, but, in fact, pushed us backward. Under such circumstances, the army very reluctantly intervened and martial law was promulgated. It is a matter of pride for all of us that the armed forces carried out their responsibilities successfully. The presidential election was held as pledged in June 1978, followed by the parliamentary election in 1979. Martial law was lifted and a multiparty parliamentary system was restored in the country. Our economic condition was absolutely dreadful following independence and we were known to the international community as a basket case.

World inflation and economic recession also hit us badly when we were trying to gear the nation toward progress within the shortest possible time. Our progress was blocked once again in 1979, when an unprecedented drought brought the nation close to famine. But we did not give up. We tackled the problem by importing food on an emergency basis from foreign countries with our hard-earned foreign exchange reserve. "It was indeed a great challenge to the nation and we met it courageously."

"Our second five-year plan has already been put into operation. Its successful implementation will make the nation self-sufficient and its good effects will be felt in all areas of our national life. A peaceful revolution has already been geared to attaining the goal of self-reliance. In the first phase of the revolution, the objective is to double food production. We have received an unprecedented response from our people on the project of excavation and re-excavation of canals, which is the basis of producing three food crops a year in the country through irrigation. We believe that we will not only attain self-sufficiency in food but will also be in a position to export large quantitities of food-grains in the near future."

Similarly, we have continued our campaign to eradicate illiteracy in the country. Our people are now becoming conscious of the family planning program and are making the best use of preventive measures. "Our goal is not to allow the population of the country to go beyond 100 million."

Above everything, our primary object is to develop the rural areas, because 90 percent of our people live in villages.

We have also started an industrial revolution, because we feel that it is supplementary to the agricultural revolution.

"Our political, social and economic life is being directed by the principles and programs of Bangladesh nationalism. This spirit has guided us on the path of prosperity and helped to consolidate our national independence and sovereignty.

"On the basis of this same spirit of Bangladesh nationalism, we have been able to acquire our rightful place in the international forums. We have developed friendly relations with all countries and our relations with neighbors are being further developed and consolidated. Our views are now being understood more clearly than at any time before. Our international image has been further strengthened. We have been able to establish our rightful place in the Islamic world, in the Nonaligned Movement and in the Third World and, above all, we are following an independent foreign policy." The steps that we are currently taking are only the beginning of our efforts to consolidate national solidarity and to strengthen our national independence and sovereignty. We know that we have to go through many difficulties and problems. But as a nation, we are determined to march forward united for the achievement of our goal. "In this task we should not forget that the people are the source of all our strength."

Before concluding, I will ask all of you to be prepared for further hard work and sacrifice. Only in this way will we be able to repay the debts of the freedom fighters who sacrificed everything for our national independence. Goodbye and long live Bangladesh.

LORD CARRINGTON ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD ON VISIT

BK271105 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington has said Britain views with admiration the way in which Pakistan has managed to deal with the refugee problems of Afghanistan. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport this afternoon, shortly after his arrival on a 2-day visit to Pakistan. He said Britain wanted to be as helpful as possible to Pakistan in dealing with the situation created with the influx of more than 1.5 million Afghan refugees. He said he would be visiting Quetta tomorrow and see the problems on the spot, as well as assess the needs of the province and see in what way Britain could help in the development of that region.

Earlier, welcoming the British foreign secretary, Foreign Minister Agha Shahi said that Lord Carrington has a deep interest in the affairs of this region and has demonstrated his friendship for Pakistan, which Pakistan greatly values.

HAQ ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., INTERNAL SITUATION

BK270410 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan is attempting to solve the Afghan issue by diplomatic means, to facilitate the return of 1.5 million Afghan refugees to their homes. In an interview with a London journal, (IMPEX INTERNATIONAL), the president said that Pakistan is faced with security problems on both its western and eastern frontiers and needs great resources to deal with this situation. He said that Pakistan is also trying to improve relations with India, so that there will be no threat to the security of its eastern frontiers.

The president said that it will take about 2 years to restore normal political activities in the country. He said he is considering holding partyless elections first.

President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that, in his opinion, the armed forces should have some sort of constitutional role, but he ruled out the possibility of forming his own political party.

The president said that there is ample evidence showing that Pakistan's relations with the United States have improved, compared to those with the last U.S. administration.

Regarding a solution to the Kashmir issue, the president said that we should continue efforts to find a peaceful solution to this issue.

Answering a question on press censorship, the president said the government is finalizing a code of ethics concerning the press. He said that the only outstanding issue now is a final agreement between the government and the press.

SPOKESMAN DENIES SECRET AID AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

BK271054 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said Pakistan and the United States have been engaged over a period of time in an exchange of views at various levels, in order to arrive at a mutually acceptable basis for a durable bilateral relationship, consistent with Pakistani's status as a member of the Islamic Conference, and denied misleading reports put out in the past few days about the American military aid offer to Pakistan.

The spokesman said Pakistan greatly valued its friendship with the United States and the current talks were part of a continuing process, as is normal practice among friendly countries. He confirmed that discussions were taking place over certain American proposals, including military sales. The spokesman, however, denied that any agreement on aid package has been reached and characterized as totally baseless suggestions emanating from certain quarters that a secret agreement had been concluded in this regard.

The Foreign Office spokesman reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the objectives, policies and principles of the Islamic Conference and of the Nonaligned Movement. He underlined the principles of Pakistan's foreign policy, on the basis of which the relations of friendly cooperation were maintained with all countries, particularly with those in its neighborhood.

GOVERNMENT CORRECTS CLAUSE OF CONSTITUTION ORDER

BK261631 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The government has made a clarification of clause one of article 14 of the Provisional Constitution Order of 1981, which says that the correct text of clause one is as follows: When political activity is permitted by the president, only such of the defunct political parties shall be entitled to function that were registered with the election commission by 11 October 1979, or that were permitted by the commission to participate in the elections.

KARACHI BAR ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS JUDGES' ACTIONS

BK261641 Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Karachi, 26 Mar (AFP)--The Karachi bar association today added its support to Pakistani judges who refused to take the oath of allegiance under a new Constitution promulgated by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The chief justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice Anwarul Haq, refused to take the fresh oath of office Tuesday [24 March], saying it was not "consistent" with his conscience, and thus lost his job.

The lawyers strongly opposed the enforcement of the interim constitution which deprives the superior courts of powers to interfere with the working of the martial law regime, said the association's general secretary, Munir Malik.

The lawyers decided today to settle their course of action at a general meeting on Saturday, Mr Malik added.

The bar association would also honour the 14 judges of the superior courts who have refused to take a new oath of office under the interim constitutional order of General Zia, thus resigning their judicial offices, Mr Malik said.

KHAMENE'I: PEACE WITH SADDAM 'ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE'

GF271035 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0927 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Friday sermon by Tehran Friday Imam and Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defense Council Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 20 March--live]

[Excerpts] Peace be upon our Arab brothers and sisters from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf. Peace be upon the dear strugglers in Khuzestan.

In our era, there are many who view matters from a materialist standpoint. Materialist induction and disregard for spiritual factors are a tragic disaster in our age. This is a great crime, committed by those who seek to divert people from religion, turn them against religious thought and embroil them in materialism and materialist thinking.

It is important to affirm that divine victory means the intercession of factors that were not taken into consideration. These factors could be material. They could also be human or other factors. In the U.S. air attack on Tabas the sandstorm was a weapon of God--God sent it to support us and to foil the infidels. There is no doubt about it.

On the other side, we see the weak morale of the puppet Iraqi regime's soldiers, causing groups of them to seek refuge with us every week. With the same Islamic yardstick, we also view the inhuman justification given by the Abu Jahl [notorious opponent of Muhammad] of Iraq for the rocket and artillery bombardment of our cities. This only strengthens our morale and determination.

The Abu Jahl of Iraq recently sought to create an Iraqi-Jordanian joint command. All of these measures will only bring iniquity nearer to its end. The latest measure indicates that the inevitable fate of the puppet Jordanian regime is also closer. The Jordanian and Iraqi regimes will fall together into the abyss of death and extinction.

The victories we achieved in the past 2 weeks on the western fronts and in Khuzestan are undoubtedly another link in the chain of victories that brings us nearer to an honorable solution to the war. The impudent propaganda trumpets of the Abu Jahl of Iraq continue to [word indistinct] at a time when his mercenary forces were launching savage artillery and rocket attacks against unarmed and innocent citizens in many cities each week, seeking to avenge their crushing battlefield defeats on children, women and the elderly.

We have repeatedly said, and we continue to say, that a peace that safeguards the rights of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and punishes the aggressor Saddam is the peace we will accept and welcome. However, the arrogance, cruelty and savagery of this international criminal makes progress toward peace extremely difficult and almost impossible. In our struggle we rely on the heroism of our people, the [word indistinct] of our men and women, the determination, integrity and steadfastness of our leader and the justice of our honorable defense. We are confident that God is with us and victory is ours.

BANI-SADR ATTENDS KHUZESTAN MEETING ON WAR

LD261142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, attended a meeting this morning in Khuzestan Province in which the general situation at the fronts was discussed. According to this report, Brigadier General Zahir Nezhad, commander of the ground forces, and a number of the military commanders stationed in Khuzestan were also present at this meeting, which lasted for many hours. At first, each of the commanders gave a report about the activities of their forces during the past few days on various fronts.

Then, the methods of confrontation between the brave personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the mercenaries of the aggressive Iraqi forces were discussed and certain decisions were reached.

RAFSANJANI VISITS WAR WOUNDED, DISABLED 26 MAR

GF261157 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] In a Tehran hospital this morning, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the wounded and disabled of the Iraqi war that has been imposed on Iran. The Majlis speaker described the morale of the wounded heroes as being very high.

DEFENSE COUNCIL PUBLICITY DIRECTOR IN NEW DELHI

Press Conference

GF260455 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Kamal Gharazi. PARS director and director of the Supreme Defense Council Publicity Headquarters, who is currently in New Delhi, held a press conference in which he answered reporters' questions about the aggressive war imposed on Muslim Iran by the Iraqi agent regime.

The director of the Supreme Defense Council Publicity Headquarters initiated his press conference by asking the reporters: Why shouldn't the Indian press adopt a decisive stand on the aggressive war imposed on Iran, when everybody knows that an aggression has been committed and that a government has occupied another government's lands? It is very surprising to see countries that claim to respect the sovereignty and independence of other countries refuse to adopt a decisive stand. We believe that these countries should have adopted a decisive stand long ago.

Talks With Indian Minister

GF260731 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Dr Kamal Gharazi, PARS director and director of the Supreme Defense Council Publicity Headquarters, has met with the Indian external affairs minister as part of his current visit to India. PARS reports that, during the meeting, views were exchanged on the Iraqi war that has been imposed on Iran. Dr Gharazi addressed the Indian external affairs minister, saying: I hope that your upcoming visit to Tehran, assigned by the Nonaligned Movement Conference, will give you an opportunity to identify the aggressor, so that your government can adopt a clear and definite stand. He added: The Iranian people expect the friendly countries, interested in expanding relations with us, to announce their decisive and definite stand on the aggressors, who daily attack our cities with rockets and kill innocent civilans. In reply and in expressing support, the Indian external affairs minister said that his country, which is a member of the Nonaligned Movement, should not take an indifferent stand on the aggressors. He hoped to closely study the facts during his visit to the areas in Iran that have been subjected to aggression and to be successful in carrying out his assigned task.

GHARAZI IN TOKYO; INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

OW271045 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] Tokyo, 27 Mar, KYODO--Kamal Gharazi, visiting managing director of Iran's PARS NEWS AGENCY, said Friday he hoped Japan and other countries with an interest in the Gulf region would play a role in preserving security in that part of the world.

In an interview with KYODO news service, Gharazi stressed that these countries should call on both the Soviet Union and the United States to "leave the area for the people there." Neither the Russians nor the Americans should intervene in the Gulf region, he emphasized.

On the war with Iraq, Gharazi said that despite a shortage of weapons Iranian forces had more "progress" during counterattacks in the west and had recaptured a number of strong-points of strategic importance.

He said that what is more important in war is not weaponry but the determination to win and he claimed that Iranian morale was higher than that on the Iraqi side.

"We have been able to stop the Iraqi forces for six months although they are receiving arms from everywhere--East and West," he said.

Gharazi did admit that Iranian troops had not made too much progress in the fighting in southern Iran but "we hope the situation will be better by spring."

He pointed out that his country still faced economic sanctions.

The PARS managing director appeared optimistic about a reported conflict within the Iranian leadership between President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and a group of fundamentalists led by Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti. Gharazi recalled that once when he visited Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian revolution, he complained about the internal situation but the ayatollah merely said: "This is normal. Don't worry."

He quoted Khomeyni as saying that a revolution had occurred and everything had changed.

But when Khomeyni sends a message "everyone becomes silent and cooperates well," he said.

It is difficult for foreigners, particularly Westerners, to understand what is going on in Iran because they do not recognize the nature of the revolution, Gharazi said.

He said he was convinced that "the situation is getting much better" because of the coordination among the leaders.

Gharazi is scheduled to fly to Beijing Sunday.

MUJAHIDIN BLOW UP RAILROAD BRIDGE IN IRAQ

GF261614 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] PARS has reported that a group of Iraqi Muslim mujahidin blew up a bridge on the Iraq-Turkey-Europe railroad in the Al-'Uwaynat district of Al-Mawsil Governorate the day before yesterday. As a result, the movement of military equipment was completely halted. Some 2,500 tons of military hardware and oil are transported along this route daily by four to seven freight trains.

All members of the squad that carried out this operation returned safely to base; one fighter was slightly wounded.

This operation comes in the wake of the Iraqi mujahidin's decision to destroy all Iraqi supply lines, to assist the Islamic revolution in Iran under Imam Khomeyni's leadership.

AD-DA'WAH COMMANDOS BLOW UP BASRA TV STATION

GF261309 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Statement issued by the Iraqi Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party on 24 March]

[Text] 1. On 19 March, a group of our brave mujahidin attacked three military trucks that were transporting People's Army mercenaries to the battlefront against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They hurled bombs at the trucks and hit most of the passengers. The mujahidin returned safely to base.

2. On 10 March, groups of our heroic mujahidin blew up the Basra television station and a powerstation in An-Najidiyah, Basra.

3. A command squad of our heroic believers successfully stormed the headquarters of the People's Army command in Basra and purged it of Ba'thists. The squad occupied the headquarters for several days.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 447 REPORTS ON FIGHTING

LD261742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Communique 447 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The overall situation on the war fronts during the past 24 hours is brought to your attention, as follows:

1. The valiant troops of Marivan barracks, following their recent victories, opened intense artillery fire on Iraq's Sayyid Sadiq barracks and set an ammunition dump and a number of buildings ablaze. At 1300 yesterday, the enemy opened fire on our forces in retaliation for the shelling of the Sayyid Sadiq barracks. Our forces responded with artillery fire, destroying a 120-mm mortar and a cannon and killing a number of enemy soldiers. Our heroic forces suffered no casualties during these operations.

2. Our fighting units rained mortar fire on enemy positions on the Gilan-e Gharb front, destroying an APC and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops.

3. At 1100 yesterday, an Iraqi soldier surrendered to the forces of Islam in the western part of the country. According to his statement, the morale of the Iraqi Army troops is extremely low and the servicemen deployed on the frontlines are vilifying Saddam at-Tikriti for starting the war.

4. Exchanges of fire continued on the Susangerd and Karkheh Kur fronts. We enjoy complete superiority in firepower and the enemy in Karkheh Kur has suffered substantial losses.

5. During the past 24 hours, clashes took place between units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saddam's army in the Khuninshahr region, during which the Muslim combatants of our army of Islam destroyed several enemy trenches. A number of enemy positions and an ammunition dump belonging to Saddam's army were also set ablaze during these operations. No accurate figures are available as to the casualties suffered by the enemy.

6. The enemy artillery and mortar fire damaged several housing units in Abadan. Two of our dear compatriots were martyred and 39 were wounded.

7. On 24 March, on various fronts, 10 of our dear combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran sacrificed their lives for Islam and the homeland and thus joined the glorious red caravan of martyrs.

PEAK OVERLOOKING NOWDESHEH CLEARED OF ENEMY

LD262200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] According to a PARS dispatch, in the course of a successful 3-day battle, the highest peak of the heights overlooking Nowdesheh was cleared of Saddam's mercenaries. Army combatants, the self-sacrificing revolution guards corps, the people's mobilization forces, commandos and the gendarmerie fighters played important roles in this operation.

PARS adds in its dispatch that, having captured the highest peak overlooking Nowdesheh, the revolution's defenders are now in control of the region, and that only 6 of our combatants were martyred and 13 wounded during the battle. The commander of the joint operational staff of Paveh, who led these operations, told PARS: Such operations are not ordinarily launched during heavy rainfall. However, our combatants embarked on this daring assault because of their faith, thus taking the enemy by surprise and forcing him to retreat 8 km. The agency adds: After recapturing these heights, the village of Sherkan was cleared of armed elements.

FIGHTING CONTINUES ON WESTERN BATTLEFRONTS

LD262276 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continue on the Helaleh, Shur-e Shirin, Kan-e Sakht, Neykhazar and [word indistinct] on the Konjancham fronts, as well as the Malekshahi heights.

According to a PARS report, our forces totally demolished 15 bunkers, 5 tank emplacements and 1 enemy munition depot today, when they brought the Neykhazar area under artillery and mortar fire. They also killed and wounded a great many enemy troops. In Darband Kuh, one of the Konjancham's heights, three invading mercenaries were killed, four bunkers were destroyed and seven of Saddam's mercenaries were annihilated. [sentence as heard]

Our gendarmerie combatants succeeded today in destroying six enemy bunkers in Kan-e Sakht.

NVOI ON REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS ON TERRORISM

TA262020 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary: "America Is the Organizer of International Terrorism"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The Reagan administration has added new aspects to U.S. foreign policy, concentrating attention on the struggle against so-called international terrorism. The term international terrorism was heard from U.S. Secretary of State Haig and it should somehow replace Carter's policy in connection with the struggle for so-called human rights.

The world's progressive press is evaluating Haig's remarks about international terrorism as a feverish attempt by U.S. officials to associate terrorist activities with the liberation struggles of the nations of developing countries against U.S. imperialism and neocolonialism and with the battle for social progress and independent development.

U.S. Secretary of State Haig places the liberation movements of nations on the same level with terrorism, which rejects all revolutionary forces in the world. He attempts to exonerate the activities of U.S. espionage and intelligence organizations in organizing international crimes and banditry in connection with a great number of nations, and to continue interference in the internal affairs of other countries by resorting to military force, blackmail and other means, under the pretext of the struggle against so-called terrorism.

Sufficient examples exist to confirm this, whether in the past or at present. These examples expose the new U.S. administration, which has embarked on armed banditry on the international level--precisely the same thing that Mr Haig calls international terrorism. Can one conceal from public view the indisputable documents and evidence concerning subversive CIA activities in many of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America? Is carrying out an American coup in our country in 1953 and overthrowing the legal government of Dr Mossadeq not obvious terrorism on an international scale?

In those days, as at present, the CIA was and continues to be at the center of events and its activities were carried out and continue to be carried out with the consent of the U.S. Government. The military coup in Chile, the murder of President Allende and the assassination of Luther King, leader of U.S. blacks, are examples pertaining to the past, but U.S. policy has continued in this manner up to this very day. How can one interpret direct military aggression and the landing of forces by the United States in Tabas last year--which faced defeat--other than as international banditry or terrorism? Who can deny the subversive activities of the U.S. CIA in our country following the overthrow of the regime of the hated shah? The U.S. CIA undertook and continues to undertake feverish activities to mobilize all counterrevolutionary forces in Iran for the overthrow of the system of our Islamic Republic. Was it not these U.S. subversive and terrorist activities against our revolution that resulted in the straining of relations between Iran and the United States?

Currently the new administration has adopted international terrorism as the main instrument for implementing U.S. foreign policy. At his first press conference, Reagan declared that in its foreign policy the United States relies on military power. It encourages the arms race in order to safeguard so-called U.S. vital interests in the various areas of the world by force of arms. He stressed in this connection that the U.S. naval force will not leave the Persian Gulf, although it is a long time since the end of the hostage problem.

The massive U.S. naval force in the Persian Gulf was recently augmented with a huge aircraft carrier and several other warships. The U.S. aircraft carrier Midway, along with a number of U.S. ships, is cruising in the Indian Ocean. Shipment of nuclear weapons to the Diego Garcia military base in the Indian Ocean has begun. Foreign news agencies report that 19 nuclear warheads have been transported to this military base, that a runway for B-52 planes and missile pads are being constructed. The United States has also prepared a plan to deploy nuclear weapons in the rest of its military bases in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. In this connection, agreement has been reached between the United States and Egyptian President as-Sadat as well. Units of the Rapid Deployment Force and Marines have been stationed in U.S. naval warships headed for the Persian Gulf. The Pentagon has given responsibility for all military activities in the Persian Gulf, including the occupation of harbors and airfields belonging to the littoral states of the Gulf, to units of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force.

It is very obvious that such concentration of massive U.S. military power in our region and in other areas of the world is nothing but a tool to implement international terrorism by the United States, to crush the liberation struggles of nations in various parts of the world. The fact that U.S. imperialism is the founder and the element of the policy of terrorism on the international level is obvious to all.